

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBO-08 A-01 SSO-00 /019 W

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O 251205Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1530

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2074

FOR NEA/EX JONES FROM MCCORMICK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, SY

SUBJ: GOVT LEASED QUARTERS

AFTER EXTENDED SEARCH, OF OVER ONE MONTH, EMBASSY HAS LOCATED APARTMENT FOR CHIEF OF ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION. APARTMENT IS EMINENTLY SUITED FOR OFFICER'S REPRESENTATIONAL REQUIREMENTS HAVING LARGE SALON/DINING AREA PLUS EXCELLENT TERRACE WHICH IS USABLE EIGHT MONTHS OF YEAR. IT HAS THREE LARGE BEDROOMS, TWO BATHS AND COMMODIOUS KITCHEN. IT WAS LAST OCCUPIED BY FIRST SECRETARY ITALIAN EMBASSY. EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO HAVE BEEN ENTERTAINED THERE AGREE THAT THIS IS EXCELLENT FIND WHICH SHOULD NOT BE LOST.

APARTMENT IS LOCATED LESS THAN TWO MINUTES WALK FROM EMBASSY AND COMES WITH TELEPHONE WHICH BECAUSE OF SHORTAGE ARE WORTH THEIR WEIGHT IN GOLD.

AFTER MANY HOURS OF BARGAINING WITH LANDLORD, THE FOLLOWING LEASE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN NEGOTIATED, WHICH CONSIDERING LOCAL REAL ESTATE MARKET IS REASONABLE. RENT FOR FIRST YEAR DOLLARS 11,000 PAYABLE IN ADVANCE ON OCCUPANCY APPROXIMATELY OCTOBER 26. OCCUPANCY SUBJECT TO COMPLETION AND EMBASSY ACCEPTANCE OF SPECIFIED REPAIRS, AND COMPLETE REPAINTING OF APARTMENT. OPTION TO RENEW FOR THREE ADDITIONAL ONE YEAR PERIODS AT REDUCED RATE OF DOLLARS 9,600 PER ANNUM. AFTER LONG AND DIFFICULT STRUGGLE EMBASSY WAS ABLE TO KEEP ESCALATION CLAUSE OUT

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OF LEASE.

REQUEST AUTHORITY BY IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM, TO SIGN LEASE
SINCE DELAY MIGHT CAUSE US TO LOSE THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY
TO SITUATE OFFICER IN ACCOMMODATIONS WHICH MEET BOTH
FAMILY AND REPRESENTATIONAL REQUIREMENTS.
MURPHY

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NNN

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